



KINSHASA DECLARATION

Regional Parliamentarian meeting Kinshasa, 26-28 February 2007

We, representatives of the Parliaments of the core countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, namely Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, meeting at Kinshasa from 26 to 28 February 2007, in the framework of the first regional meeting of the parliamentarians of the Great Lakes Region, co-organized by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Secretariat and the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), with technical support of the Joint United Nations /African Union Secretariat;

Acknowledging the importance of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region signed in Nairobi on 15 December 2006 by the Heads of State and Governments as well as the Declaration signed the same day pertaining to the implementation of the Pact before its entry into force;

Determined to contribute to the transformation of the Great Lakes Region into a space of sustainable peace and security, political and social stability, economic growth and development shared by a multi-sectorial cooperation and integration, to the sole benefit of the people of the region;

Reaffirming the decisive role of parliamentarians, as legitimate representatives of the people and aware of the prerogatives that are ours in the fields of the elaboration of legislation and the overseeing the action and policies of our respective governments;

Aware, also of the important role women play in the promotion of peace, security and development; and acknowledging that the gender dimension constitutes an essential factor in the implementation of the Pact;

Aware, moreover of the necessity to make operational, within three months after the signing of the Pact, the Conference Secretariat, as a regional technical follow-up body.

Solemnly declare as follows:

1. Welcome the Pact on Security, Stability and Development of the Great Lakes Region signed by the Heads of State and Governments on 15 December 2006 at the Nairobi Summit;
2. Commit to work towards attaining rapid ratification of the Pact in order to enter into force as soon as possible, in accordance with Article 33 of the Pact;
3. Also commit to sensitise, at the national level, our fellow citizens in our constituencies and respective countries, on the content of the Pact and its expected outcomes;
4. Request our Heads of State and Governments, to take the necessary measures to release the contribution owed to the regular budget of the Conference Secretariat for the year 2007;
5. Also urge our respective governments to contribute to the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development;
6. Declare our firm commitment to contribute to the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development, in the spirit of mutual trust and good faith, and to transform the region into an area of peace and security for the present and future generations;
7. Affirm our determination to work towards putting definitely an end to conflicts in the Great Lakes Region and appeal to all political, social and economic actors, to continue working towards peace, security, stability and development in the region;
8. Commit to foster dialogue among parliamentarians of the core countries in the framework of the Regional Forum of Parliamentarians of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region allowing discussions on topics of common interest, namely the implementation of the Pact;
9. Express our profound gratitude to the Congolese People, the Parliament and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the warm welcome and hospitality to the delegations;
10. Express our gratitude to AWEPA, UNDP and the Group of Friends for their financial support to the organization of this meeting and reiterate our gratitude to the Group of Friends, the United Nations System, the African Union and other international partners for their contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference while at the same time calling upon them to maintain their support towards the implementation of the Pact;
11. Also express our appreciation to the Joint UN/AU Secretariat for the technical support so far brought to the process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

Done in Kinshasa, on 28 February 2007.

